



Dakota County

General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

9:30 AM

**Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings**

(or following County Board)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Workman at 10:38 a.m.

Present

- Commissioner Mike Slavik
- Commissioner Joe Atkins
- Commissioner Laurie Halverson
- Commissioner William Droste
- Commissioner Liz Workman
- Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
- Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.

2. Audience

Chair Workman noted that all public comments can be sent to
CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us
No comments were received for this agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Laurie Halverson

Ayes: 7

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, the Consent agenda was approved as follows:

4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on June 23, 2026

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Ayes: 7

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Public Services and Revenue

- 5.1** Authorization To Execute Agreement With And Accept Grant Funds From Minnesota Historical Society And Execute Subrecipient Agreement With Dakota County Historical Society For Wayfinding And Interpretive Signage For Heroes And Heritage Interpretive Trail Loop And Amend 2026 Public Services And Revenue Budget

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Laurie Halverson

Director of Dakota County Historical Society Matt Carter briefed this item and responded to questions. The resolution was approved as amended. Language was added to include County staff will be reimbursed for their time associated with the management of the grant funds.

WHEREAS, the Laws of Minnesota 2026, Chapter 129, Article 1, Section 13 awarded Dakota County \$300,000 through a Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) general fund grant to design and construct wayfinding and interpretive signage for the Heroes and Heritage Interpretive Trail Loop; and

WHEREAS, this project is intended to provide self-guided interpretive and wayfinding signage on primarily county-owned right of way and trails within West St. Paul, South St. Paul, and Inver Grove Heights connecting places of local history and significant events which will highlight local history, with the goal of creating a cohesive interpretive narrative that connects trail users with the rich history of the region; and

WHEREAS, a State funding source reduces the burden on local taxpayers for regional improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS) completed the phase one pilot project in 2024 which included research, onsite analysis, community engagement, concept refinement, draft sign content and design final report at a cost of \$75,000 which was funded from the 2024-2028 Parks CIP which includes County Program Aid within the planning setaside; and

WHEREAS, DCHS is a sole-source provider for completing phase two and is willing to manage the project to completion; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County Physical Development Division staff is prepared to provide general maintenance around the interpretive signage installed on county-owned property and to be responsible for repairs and replacement of that signage as necessary along the trail under separate maintenance agreements;

and

WHEREAS, County staff will be reimbursed for their time associated with the management of the grant funds; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County will act as fiscal agent in the distribution of Minnesota Historical Society grant funds to DCHS, via reimbursement of work completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the execution of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) grant agreement and acceptance of the grant funds for the design and construction of wayfinding and interpretive signage for the Heroes and Heritage Interpretive Trail Loop; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Assistant County Manager of the Public Services and Revenue Division to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS) for design and construction of wayfinding and interpretive signage for the Heroes and Heritage Interpretive Trail Loop; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2026 Public Services and Revenue Program Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Expense

Reimbursement to DCHS for design and construction of signage \$300,000

Total Expense **\$300,000**

Revenue

MHS Grant Funding \$300,000

Total Revenue **\$300,000**

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 8/4/2026.

Ayes: 7

6. Central Operations

6.1 Update On 2025 Audit Results

Audit Manager Lucas Chase and Clifton Larson Allen LLP representatives Troy Gabler and Josh Robertson briefed this item and responded to questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Information only; no action requested.

7. County Board/County Administration

7.1 2026 Board Priorities Second Quarter Update

Members of Senior Leadership briefly shared priorities for each Division and

responded to questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Information only; no action requested.

7.2 Legislative Update

Communications and Public Affairs Director Mary Beth Schubert briefed this item and responded to questions.

The committee was provided a draft comment letter addressed to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in response to regulation for Federal Financial Assistance. The draft letter addresses the proposed rule rewriting 2 CFR Part 200 - commonly known as the Uniform Guidance - published in the Federal Register on May 29, 2026 (Docket OMB-2026-0034). This rulemaking represents the most significant revision to federal grant administration since 2013. Dakota County administers Federal grant funds from nine Federal Departments totaling approximately \$67,954,960 million annually, supporting critical services in Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor, Transportation, Revenue, Health and Human Services, Elections Assistance Commission, and Homeland Security. These funds are delivered directly to residents and, in many cases, passed through to local subrecipients and community organizations. The proposed rule would affect every aspect of how the County applies for, administers and accounts for those funds. Dakota County maintains robust internal controls, documented policies and procedures, and a strong audit record. The committee directed staff to send the letter.

Assistant County Manager-Community Services Marti Fischbach gave an overview regarding long-term services and supports (LTSS) costs. The committee will address this issue with legislative delegation and collectively, with other counties, bring forward to Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) and Minnesota Association of County Administrators (MACA). Collectively applying pressure to relay/communicate that counties cannot continue to be mandated to perform certain services without additional funding.

Information only; no action requested.

8. County Manager/Deputy/Director's Report

County Manager Heidi Welsch shared the following updates:

- Finance Work Session will be held on July 13, 2026. Budget scenarios and additional information regarding how current and future mandates will affect the County Budget.
- County Manager and Human Resources Director completed 13 Town Hall meetings with staff over the past few weeks. Budget updates were shared and questions answered. Overall, staff relayed appreciation for the transparency.
- A future closed session will be scheduled to discuss labor negotiations.

9. Future Agenda Items

Chair Workman asked the Committee if anyone had a topic they would like to hear more about at an upcoming meeting. No topics were brought forth.

10. Adjournment

10.1 Adjournment

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

On a motion by Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeni Reynolds
Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board